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THE REASONABLENESS OF Laying a Tax on LICENCES, For Selling BEER ALE &c. in Great Britain, JUSTIFIED

The Objections againſt it Anſwered, and the Sufficiency of the Scheme Propoſed by Mr. PHIPPS, for its raiſing one *Million of Pounds Sterling* Yearly, farther Conſidered

THE Government reſerving to it Selfe, the priviledges of granting *Licences*, for Selling *Beer*, *Ale* and other *Liquors*; may with much more reaſon advance the price of ſuch *Licences*, than a Landlord may advance the price of his improved *Lands*, becauſe *Lands*, be they never ſo good, are not made better by letting them to a *Tenant*, but *Licences* to ſell the above Named *Liquors*, better the Houſes that are made uſe of for the ſale of ſuch *Liquors*, that what would not otherwiſe yeild, *Forty Shillings per Annum*, by being Occupied in the *Sale* aforeſaid, is as good as a farme of *Tenn* or *Twenty Pounds* per, *Annum*.

The Objections Raiſed againſt this *Tax*, is within Doors; for without Doors, it is generaly thought, the cleaneſt, the moſt reaſonable and leaſt Grievous *Tax* to the *Subject*, that hath been Propoſed ſince the beginning of this Warr; if being ſo may be eſteemed a good Quality in a *Tax*. The Objection againſt it is, that *Beer* and *Ale* are Loaded with as much as it can bear already, there being a Debt of *Nine Hundred Thouſand Pounds per*, *Annum* and upwards on the *Exciſe*

It is Anſwered,

If it be conſidered who they are, that Drinke theſe ſorts of *Liquors*, that they are ſuch, that have no regard wha the Vender payes for his *Licence*, but the goodneſs of the *Liquors* it ſelfe; And none being to ſell theſe *Liquors*, but ſuch as can pay the Purchaſe of the ſaid *Licences* mentioned in the *Scheme* propoſed, it is to be hoped theſe *Liquors* will be in greater perfection, and conſequently more Drank, which will ſtill advance the Revenue of the *Exciſe*.

Obj. As for the objection, that it will leſſen the Number of Ale-Houſes, and ſo the Tax will fall ſhort of the Sum Propoſed

It is Anſwer'd,

It is the Intereſt of every Pariſh, that hath a Family in it that Subſiſts by Selling the aforeſaid Liquors, if they are willing to continue them in that Employment, to advance the 20s. for them for ſuch Licences, rather than Pay Ten Pounds *per Annum*. to Maintain them otherways. but it was never yet known ſince the Primitive Rule was broke through, of granting Licenſes to none but Antient People, and Invalids, That the Number of Ale-Houſes decreaſed, but if they Declin'd in one Pariſh, they Increaſed in another; and it being an Imployment ſo Beneficial, it is no wonder if it be ſo much run into, and the Government ought to have the advantage of it

If any doubt, whether there be 400 Thouſand Families Occupied in this Employment, in *Great Britain*. Let them give themſelves the trouble and Charge; the *PROPOSER*, and his *Friends* have done, to enquire into the Certainty and Sufficiency of this *Fund*, and they will be convinc'd, that the Number thus Employ'd, much exceeds the Number Mentioned. So that, if it could be Suppoſed (which is hardly to be admitted) that the Poorer ſort will decline their *Ale-Houſes* upon this Account; this Tax wou'd ſtill much exceed the Sum mentioned in the *Propoſals*. And the Nation eaſed of the worſt ſort of Houſes uſed in this Employment, which Harbours generaly *Whores*, *Rogues*, *Highway-Men &c.*

This Tax being moſt reaſonable, eaſy to be Collected, abundantly Sufficient to Raiſe the Sum mentioned, and no way Grevious, can have but One Objection more to it, which is, that it was brought in by an unuſual Method, which if a Fault, the Propoſer will not take it altogether upon himſelf, he having leave of the then Treaſury, to Propoſe it to the Committee of Wayes and Means, and deſires the Publick may not looſe the Advantage of ſo Beneficial a Tax, on account of Form only.

But if the *Parliament* pleaſe, an Eſſay may be made, to See what a part of this Propoſal will Produce, and by that, They will be able to govern themſelves in time to come, to do in it, as They ſhall think Fitt.

Mr. Phipps's
PROPOSALS
Vindicated.

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